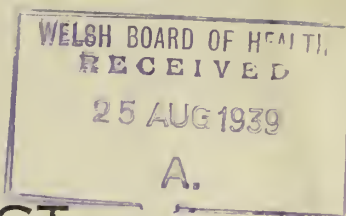


Whitehead



KNIGHTON RURAL DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1938.



Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Coltman-Rogers and Gentlemen.

I beg to submit my annual Report for the year 1938.

Area of District 88,667 Acres.
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate) 3,515
Number of Inhabited Houses, 945.
Rateable Value £21,274.
Sum represented by a penny rate, £93.

The district is mountainous, very scattered and purely agricultural. There is little unemployment. The standard of living has certainly improved during the last 30 years, especially since the war, and I have been much impressed by the improvement in the physique of the working classes during this period.

There is nothing like as much rickets or chlorosis as there was 30 years ago.

Statistics.

		M.	F.	
	Total—55	34	21	
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	30	21	} Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 15·6
	Illegitimate	4	—	

The average Birth rate for England and Wales was 15·1 per 1000.

STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	...	1	} Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths 18·1
	Illegitimate	...	nil	

DEATHS Total 39 Males 23 Females 16.

Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 11·09.

The Death rate for England and Wales was 11·6.

There were were no deaths from Puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

Total M. 2 F. 1 Legitimate M. 1 F. 1 Illegitimate M. 1.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age 54·5 per 1000.

„ „ Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 39·2.

„ „ Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births, 250.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) M. 4 F. 3

„ Measles Nil

„ Whooping Cough Nil

„ Diarrhoea under 2 years of age M. 1

There were no specially noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity, neither is there any evidence that unemployment had any influence on the health of children or adults.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector are the only Public Health Officials, both are part time, also both have retired since the end of the year.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Arrangements for these have been made with the Clinical Research Assoc.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is an ambulance at Llandrindod Wells and at Shrewsbury ; these have always been available and I think the arrangements may be considered satisfactory.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are eight nurses all fully trained (General and Midwifery) working in the district and I should say the Nursing service is eminently satisfactory.

CLINICS AND HOSPITALS.

The Hospitals at Shrewsbury and Llandrindod Wells and the Public Assistance Institution at Knighton adequately supply the needs of the district.

Water supplies are generally satisfactory, most of the houses having their own supply from shallow well or spring. I mentioned in my last report that something ought to be done at Knucklas and Duthlas but these matters are still in abeyance, neither has the supply at Cascob School been improved.

Analysis showed that the *Bacillus Coli* were present in the Beguildy water and alterations were being carried out at the end of the year. There is very little pollution of rivers and streams.

Most of the houses have their own privies and there are few water closets.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.— No action has been taken or necessary.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS.— There are no public or privately owned swimming pools or baths.

BED BUGS.— I have practised in the district for nearly 40 years and have never seen a bed bug.

SCHOOLS.

Some of the schools are of course not up to the present day standard but having regard to the declining population and contemplated transference of a large proportion of the children to Senior Schools, school authorities are loth to spend money on alterations and improvements.

Water supplies to schools are generally satisfactory except at Cascob.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Inspector made 50 inspections of cowsheds. He states that he gives instructions as to lime washing and impresses on those who do the milking the importance of strict cleanliness but this is not a district in which milk is produced for sale to any large extent. Many farmers sell a few pints of milk daily to their neighbours or employees and some is sent to Cadburys but I understand this is made into dried milk. Samples of milk are taken by the County Council Inspector.

There is only one slaughter house and this is only used occasionally. The Inspector made 6 inspections. No carcasses were condemned.

Samples of food are taken by the County Council Inspector.

The Welsh National Memorial Association lecturer visits the Schools periodically and his lectures includes the subject of Nutrition.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	5	1	Nil
Pneumonia	1	—	2
Acute anterior poliomyelitis	2	2	Nil

The cases of Scarlet Fever were all in the age group 5–15 years.

No special action has been taken with regard to the prevention of blindness. The Eye and Ear Hospital at Shrewsbury is always available for eye cases.

Tuberculosis cases are seen by the Tuberculosis physician and I believe all cases are notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
25-30	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
50-65	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There are no arrangements for refuse collection and disposal and in such a scattered district I don't think any arrangements are necessary or feasible.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	156
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	350
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses [included under sub-head (1) above] which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	118
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	206
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	14

2. Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	15
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice —	
	(a) By owners	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :*

Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	1
Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	1
Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	6
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	nil
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	nil
Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	nil
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	nil
Number of new Dwelling-houses	...	...	2
Number of registered Workshops	...	...	1
Number of registered Milk-sellers	...	...	51

There are no recognised camping sites but there are occasional Boy Scouts camps. I should say there were never more than 20 campers resident at any one time.

DEATHS.

	TOTAL	Males	Females
All causes	39	23	16
Heart Disease	10	6	4
Other circulatory diseases	1	—	1
Pneumonia	2	1	1
Other Respiratory diseases	1	1	—
Cancer	7	4	3
Senility	4	2	2
Congenital Debility	1	1	—
Nephritis	1	1	—
Suicide	1	1	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2	—	2
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	—	1
Influenza	3	2	1
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	2	2	—
Other defined diseases	3	2	1

I am, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. K. GRIFFITHS.

July 21st, 1939.